

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Concannon, John E. DO <JConcannon@Lifespan.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 6:46 PM  
**To:** Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.  
**Cc:** Chris O'Brien; Colleen Vitale  
**Subject:** House Bill 7171

Dear Joe,

It is indeed unfortunate that the **COVID 19** crisis prevents me from once again giving testimony before you. As you recall, I had the great honor to present before the HEW subcommittee on **vaccinations** and on **marijuana** issues so as to keep our children safe and well.

To be brief, HB7171 would allow for the extension of **telemedicine payment** parity beyond the periodic executive orders issued by Gov. Raimondo. Telemedicine parity has **greatly strengthened pediatric care** for our office and our patients in many respects. By requiring health insurers to **reimburse at a fair rate** it has allowed my daughter and I to keep our pediatric office open. By **eliminating costly copays**, telemedicine has **increased access** to health care by patients and their parents. By using telemedicine our patients have benefited in many and sometimes unexpected ways: **teenagers are more open** to discuss their anxiety issues in remote visits, and we are able to peek into the home of many of our pediatric patients to ensure optimal care.

Please continue to protect the children of Rhode Island by **supporting HB7171** and continuing the telemedicine reimbursement parity.

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